

To the Honourable the Commons of  
Great-Britain, in Parliament assembled.

*The Humble Petition of Sir William Chapman, Kt. and Bar.*

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Sheweth,



*HAT there is a Bill depending in this Honourable House, for the Relief of the unhappy Sufferers in the South-Sea Company, which vests Your Petitioner's Estates, as he was one of the late Directors of the said Company, in Trustees, for the Benefit of the said Sufferers.*

*That Your Petitioner was not concerned in the Contrivance of any Scheme, was not acquainted with any Secret Affairs or Transactions, as the selling to, holding, or taking in Stock for any Person, during the Dependence of the late Bill in Parliament. He was not One of the Committee of Treasury, He borrowed no Money on the Loans of the Company, either on Stock or Subscriptions. He knew not of the selling any Stock, or Subscriptions deposited with the Company. He had no Hand or Benefit in the Increase or Decrease of the Subscriptions. He never sold any Stock to the Company ——— nor to any Person at the time Orders were given to buy Stock for them; nor was he consulted concerning any such Orders, till the Stock was fallen to 160 l. tho' his Name is unjustly put down, as Present at a Committee of Treasury of the 19th of August. He was ignorant of any Design to take in a Fourth Subscription, and Absent when the Court of Directors agreed thereto. He sold no Stock after the Declaration of the Twelve Years Dividend, except 500 l. when it was fallen to 195, but lent of his own Money 6000 l. on 1100 l. Stock, the greatest Part of which is lost; and during the whole Transaction, he neither gave, nor took any Premiums for the Refusal of any Stock or Dividend.*

*Your Petitioner hath delivered to the Barons of his Majesty's Exchequer, a true Particular and Inventory of all his Estate, to the best of his Knowledge, and has answered truly, justly, and fully to his Examination before the Honourable Committee of Secrecy.*

*Your Petitioner regards with the utmost Concern, the Publick Misfortunes, to which he never designedly contributed: And humbly Represents, that he hath no Relations Living, from whom he can hope for any Support. And Humbly Prays, This Honourable House to compassionate the unhappy Circumstances of Himself, his Wife and Children; and Hopes, they will take his Case into Consideration, and give him such Relief, as to their great Goodness shall seem meet.*

*And Your Petitioner shall ever Pray, &c.*

William Chapman.